

SENATE BILL 3432

By Tracy

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,  
Chapter 6, relative to civics education.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. The general assembly finds:

(1) Effective and responsible participation in political life as competent citizens requires the acquisition of a body of knowledge and of intellectual and participatory skills;

(2) It is essential to the future health of our republic that all citizens be knowledgeable about democratic principles and practices, including fundamental documents such as the state and federal Constitutions, the Declaration of Independence, the Gettysburg Address;

(3) Individuals who have a clear and full understanding of the rights and responsibilities of citizens in a republic are more likely to exercise and defend those rights and responsibilities; and

(4) Providing civic education and promoting good citizenship and understanding fundamental democratic principles should be core missions of Tennessee secondary schools.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 6, Part 10, is amended by adding a new section thereto, as follows:

(a) The course of instruction in all public schools shall include, at some appropriate grade level or levels in high school, as determined by the local board of education, courses and content designed to educate children in the United States government. The goal of the curriculum shall include the three branches of government, the fundamental documents that

underpin our form of government, an understanding of how laws are enacted, and ways citizens shape and influence government and governmental actions.

(b) The commissioner of education shall advise all school district boards of education of this section.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2010, the public welfare requiring it.